

Neuber's Jewelry Store
130 West California Street
Jacksonville
Jackson County
Oregon

HABS No. ORE-108

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PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. ORE-108

NEUBER'S JEWELRY STORE

Location: 130 West California Street, Jacksonville, Jackson
County, Oregon

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1858, the lot where Neuber's Jewelry Store now stands was owned by Lewis and Almira Thompson. The Thompsons owned this lot and the adjoining lots at various times, and they were responsible for subdividing them so that three stores now occupy the frontage normally divided into two store lots. The facades on this corner are therefore narrower than the twenty-five-foot store fronts commonly found in Jacksonville.

In 1862, Thompson sold the sixteen feet of ground adjacent to Sachs Brothers Store to John Neuber,¹ who evidently intended to erect a new building. In 1863, David Linn, the local carpenter, took a lien for \$841 on John Neuber's "Watchmaker and Jewelry Store."² Linn probably had recently completed building the present structure. At the time, Neuber was advertising that he occupied a "new store" next to Sachs Brothers on California Street.³ Late in 1863, Neuber took out an insurance policy on a one-story frame building and a stock of clocks, cutlery, and fancy goods; the building was described as being next to a brick store, with two frame stores to the east.⁴

John Neuber continued to operate the jewelry store until 1874--in the late 1860s and early 1870s references are made in the town records to his being hired to repair a clock and to his being called to jury duty.⁵ In September 1874, however, he was adjudged insane and was ordered taken to the State Insane Asylum, with his guardians paying the cost of keeping him there.⁶ In 1881, Lena Neuber leased the building to C. B. Rostell for three years. Rostell had the right to arrange it as a barbershop and bathrooms and then to remove the fixtures at the end of his lease.⁷

The building is now used as an art gallery.

FOOTNOTES

¹Jackson County Deeds, August 16, 1862.

²Ibid., February 28, 1863.

³The Oregon Intelligencer, June 20, 1863.

⁴Phoenix Insurance Company, "Insurance Book," MSS in Jacksonville Museum, Jacksonville, Oregon.

⁵Jackson County Commissioners' Journals, March 12, 1869, and August 7, 1872.

⁶Ibid., September 21, 1874. In addition, the sheriff, J. W. Manning, was allowed to draw \$329.50 for transporting the patient.

⁷Jackson County Deeds, August 2, 1881. The lease was recorded among the deed records of the County; while the recording of leases was not a standard practice, this is not a unique case either.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: The entire building consists of one story.
2. Number of bays: The present facade is two bays wide.
3. Layout, shape: The building is rectangular; it is deeper than it is wide.
4. Wall construction, finish, color: The walls are frame with horizontal siding. The siding is painted off-white with ochre trim.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorway: The doorway is in the west bay. It is recessed behind the plane of the facade.
 - b. Window: The window in the east bay is a large, two-over-two-light display window.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape: The roof is flat, sloping downward toward the north.
 - b. Cornice: Wooden brackets of ^{molded} scroll shape support a simple, boxed corona. There is no frieze or architrave.

B. Description of Interior:

The interior is a single room used as gallery space.

C. Site and Surroundings:

The building is flanked by taller, one-story, brick

commercial buildings. It is built along the south property line.

D. Original Appearance:

The building has been remodelled frequently and substantially. It appears that it originally had a three-bay facade similar to that of the present Beekman Bank building. Wooden surrounds framed double-leaf doors. The wooden brackets supporting the boxed corona sprang from a wooden frieze course.

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